

1 Mrs Loyne Dio 5 B  
2 Mrs Knowles Ches Hse  
3 Lebrary  
HEALTH  
17 DEC 55  
C.R. 15

Braintree Rural District  
Council

ANNUAL REPORT  
of  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for  
1952



Braintree Rural District Council

---

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

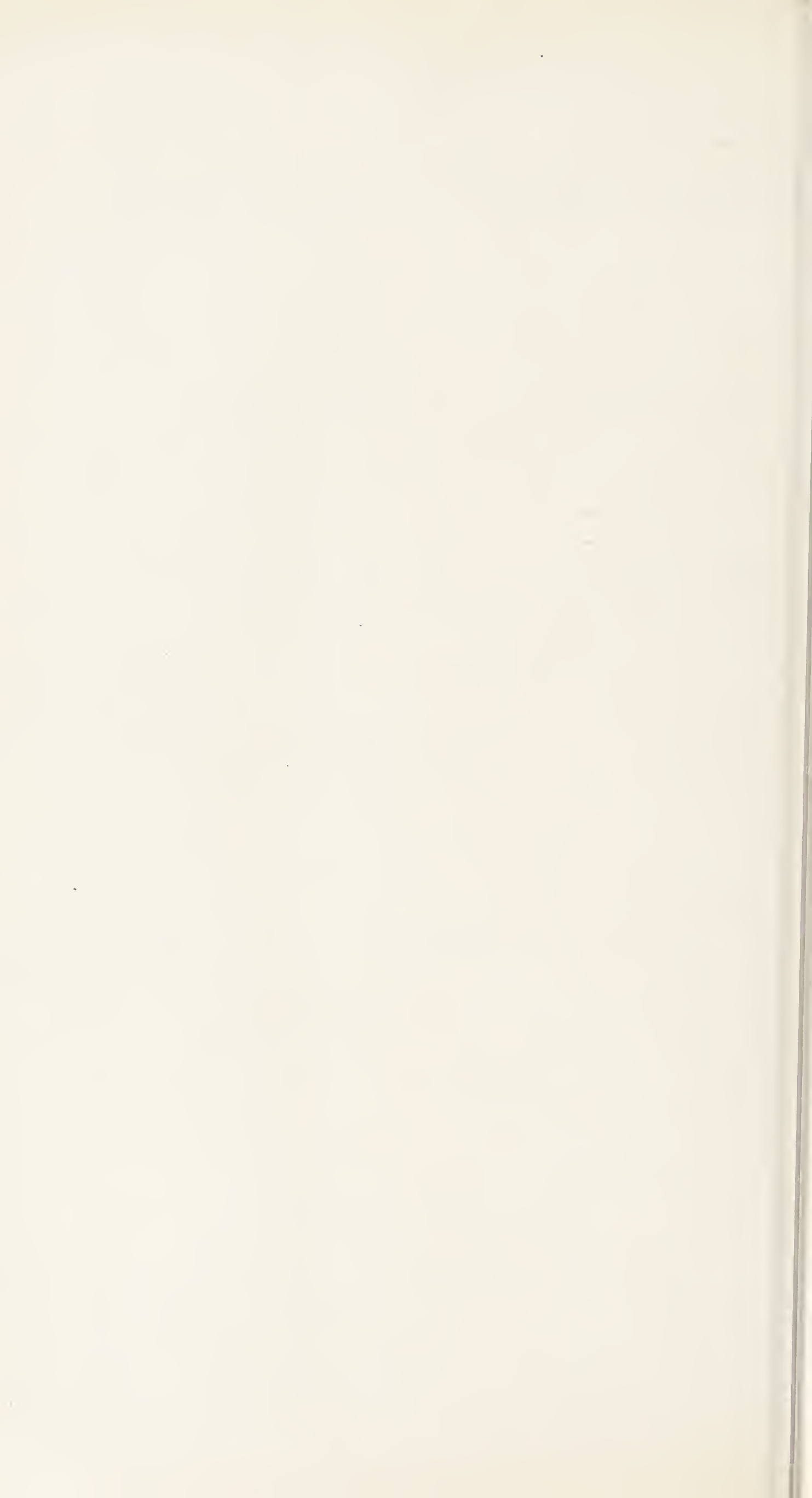
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1952

---

W H. ROOT,  
Printer,  
Halstead.



# **Braintree Rural District Council**

---

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

---

MAJOR S. H. MACKNELLY, J.P. (ex-officio), Chairman  
MR. V. B. GOODWIN, Vice-Chairman  
MRS. I. A. AYRES  
MISS G. E. BLYTH  
MRS. M. F. ROLT  
MRS. P. C. WANT  
LT.-COL. A. R. SOLLY  
MESSRS. R. J. BARR, C. J. BARFIELD, A. L. BURST,  
E. G. CLAYDON, W. S. CROSSMAN, C. CROWE,  
F. DEARMAN, W. H. HARVEY, G. NOTTAGE, S. G.  
RATCLIFF, J.P., A. SAWYER, T. SPEAKMAN, A.  
SPRINGETT, N. E. STRUTT, T.D., E. TANNER, E. S.  
WATKINSON, G. V. S. WHATLEY, J. E. WILKINSON,  
G. S. ZAIR, C. J. DEAL, J.P. (ex-officio).

---

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

### **Medical Officer of Health**

A. P. KALRA, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector**


C. ORGAN, M.S.I.A., Cert , R.S.I., Meat and other Foods.

### **Additional Sanitary Inspector**

W. R. GAGE, M.S.I.A.

### **Clerks**

R. F. TWITCHETT  
P. E. L. REED (to H.M. Forces 11.10.52)  
Miss V. T. KENT (from 16.10.52)



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29355540>



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

TOWN HALL,

BRAINTREE.

OCTOBER, 1953.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This Annual Report is presented by me on behalf of the late Dr. Kalra. Personally I have little knowledge of the District during the year but am enabled by your officers to make the following observations.

There has been no noteworthy outbreak of infectious disease, and once again no case of diphtheria has occurred.

The Housing problem is much the same as in the neighbouring district of which I have fuller knowledge. It seems that the time is almost at hand when the provision of extra houses will not be such a major problem, and that more attention can be given to the reconstruction or demolition of the older types of house property.

In certain of the more built up areas I am of the opinion that this may best be carried out by creating clearance areas. Individual houses can usually only be dealt with by rehousing the tenants by the Council, and steps should, in such cases, be taken to make sure, that prior to their removal, legal charges are made on the property to enforce demolition or thorough reconstruction before permission is granted for inhabitation. This is of importance, to protect intending purchasers from loss by buying property against which proceedings may be taken. Unless such houses are detached, the taking of action may lead to the vacating of houses which may be difficult to demolish owing to the necessity of making good interior walls often of property that will also be subject to some similar action in the near future.

It is, therefore, in my opinion, that in such cases careful consideration should generally be given as to the advisability of formulating clearance areas in such cases, however small an area may be.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. RANSON.

# 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

						Braintree R.D.C.	England and Wales
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	55,569	
Estimated resident population at mid-1952	...	...	...	...	...	18,320	
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...	...	...	...	...	5,909	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£72,914	
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£287. 15. 8.	
Live Births	Legitimate	...	Total	Male	Female		
	Illegitimate	...	249	120	129		
Still Births	...	...	8	4	4		
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	12	8	4	14.2	15.3
Birth Rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.97	...	...	...	...	...	13.5	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live & still births)	...	...	...	...	...	44.6	22.6
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	214	
Death Rate per 1,000 resident population	...	...	...	...	...	11.6	11.3
Death Rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.77	...	...	...	...	...	8.9	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	8	
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	31.1	27.6
Death Rate of Illegitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	32.1	
Death Rate of Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	0	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	33	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	0	

## Deaths at Various Age Groups during 1952 (Registered and Transferred)

Age Group				Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under one year	...	...	...	1	7
1 and under 2 years	...	...	...	—	—
2 and under 5 years	...	...	...	1	—
5 and under 15 years	...	...	...	—	—
15 and under 25 years	...	...	...	2	—
25 and under 35 years	...	...	...	—	—
35 and under 45 years	...	...	...	4	1
45 and under 55 years	...	...	...	11	1
55 and under 65 years	...	...	...	16	10
65 and under 75 years	...	...	...	27	24
75 and upwards	...	...	...	69	40
Totals				131	83



## Deaths from all Causes, 1952

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	4	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	4	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	4	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	10	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	9	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	15	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	20	28
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	6	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	10	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	3	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	14	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	2	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
All Causes				117	97

## 2. PREVALENCE and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1952.

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Dead
Scarlet Fever ...	16	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	15	—	—
Measles ...	97	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	4	4	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	4	—	—
Totals ...	139	4	—

Tuberculosis Cases Notified during 1952.

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5 and under 10 years	—	—	1	3
10 and under 15 years	—	1	—	—
15 and under 20 years	—	1	—	—
20 and under 25 years	2	1	—	—
25 and under 35 years	1	1	2	—
35 and under 45 years	—	—	—	—
45 and under 55 years	1	—	—	—
55 and under 65 years	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	5	3	3

Of these cases 10 were of cases re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

Pulmonary ... ..	Male	4
	Female	1
Non-Pulmonary . . .	Male	—
	Female	—
	Total	5

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

ST. PETER'S CLOSE,

BOCKING, BRAINTREE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I make no apologies whatsoever in again referring to the subject of "Housing" in this introduction to the work of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

There is little doubt in my own mind that this subject remains one of the major social services of the District, indeed, of the whole country at the present time; but I do feel the time has arrived when this must be viewed not solely from the aspect of the provision of new houses, but a carefully balanced programme of new houses together with the repair, or demolition where appropriate, of existing private dwellings.

For economical and other reasons there will always be a demand for the latter type of dwelling, but unless these are given the right attention at this stage there is the danger that the correct proportion of the two types of dwelling will become unbalanced, and consequently may ultimately result in too large a proportion of Local Authority owned dwellings which may be difficult to let.

The rate of progress of building new houses since 1945 has of course brought its problems in various ways, one of the most important being that of the removal of domestic refuse. In all, some 750 (approximately) new dwellings have been built since that date and it is inevitable that the time will come when it will be a physical impossibility to maintain the standard of service with the labour and transport at present available.

These subjects referred to are but two of the multifarious duties of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department; these and others, of no less importance, are reported upon in greater detail elsewhere in this report.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for the ever-ready co-operation of all Officers of the Council; the support of the Chairman of the Council and Public Health Committee and to all other members for their interest, co-operation and assistance where necessary; and finally to my own staff for their loyalty and the very efficient way in which they have carried out their duties during the year in spite of a certain amount of disruption due to the call-up to H.M. Forces of the Junior Clerical Assistant which took place towards the end of the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. ORGAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER.

Further extensions to water mains were completed during the year at:

1. Brick Kiln Green, Wethersfield.
2. White Notley to Faulkbourne.
3. School Road, Rayne.
4. Supplementary extension, London Road, Black Notley.

The main public water supply generally has been satisfactory during the year as regards quantity and quality.

None of the waters is liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

The quality of the raw water from the Council's sources of supply and of the water passing into supply is controlled by regular bacteriological examinations. Regular chemical analyses are also made of the raw water from the respective sources. Nine samples of main water supplies were taken for analysis during 1952. Copies of typical reports on the analyses of the water from three sources, South-Essex Water Company, Petches Bridge Waterworks and the supply from the Chelmsford R.D.C. will be found along with the details of each works.

All the main water supplies in the District are subject to chlorination at the respective sources. In the case of the Council's undertakings, gaseous chlorine is employed at Petches Bridge Works and hypochlorite solution at Coggeshall and at Terling.

Details of the functioning of each of the undertakings during 1952 are given below. The Council's Surveyor and his staff have supplied the data in regard to the amounts of water pumped in each area for the year to 31st March, 1953. It has not been possible to obtain separate statistics as to trade and domestic consumption for the year under review.

#### Petches Bridge Waterworks

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st March, 1953	69,892,000
Average day's pumping	... 14.6 hours.
Number of new connections	... 31

#### ANALYST'S REPORT

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals. It has an alkaline reaction but not to an excessive degree. Its hardness is very moderate and it is free from any excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

#### Coggeshall Waterworks

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st March, 1953	42,350,000
Average day's pumping	... 16.5 hours.
Number of new connections	... 34

### Terling Waterworks

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st March, 1953	18,000,000
Average day's pumping ... ..	7 hours.
Number of new connections ... ..	9

### South Essex Water Company

Total quantity of water received by this Council from the Company for the year ended 31st March, 1953, is as follows:

EASTERN AREA	Gallons
Augmented supply to Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering ...	18,758,000
Supply to Bradwell, Cressing, Stisted, Black Notley and White Notley ... ..	61,790,000
	<hr/>
	80,548,000
	<hr/>

Number of new connections — 53.

### SOUTHERN AREA

Augmented supply to Hatfield Peverel, Terling and Fairstead	6,129,000
	<hr/>
	86,677,000
	<hr/>

### ANALYST'S REPORT

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

### Supply from Chelmsford R.D.C.

Total quantity of water received by this Council from the Chelmsford R.D.C. for the year ended 31st March, 1953, was made up as follows:

	Gallons
A { Ranks Green Extension, Fairstead ... ..	697,000
{ Fuller Street Extension, Fairstead ... ..	254,000
"Cardfields" Extension, Hatfield Peverel ... ..	317,000
	<hr/>
	1,268,000
	<hr/>

Number of new services at "A" — 2.

### ANALYST'S REPORT

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and is of satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.



## SHALLOW WELL SUPPLIES

Following completion of the four water mains extensions the number of localities dependent upon shallow wells and springs as their only source of water supply was reduced to two.

In spite of the difficult prevailing conditions with regard to cost and shortage of labour and materials, the keenness of owners to connect to the new mains was particularly gratifying, and this without any undue pressure by the Council in most cases.

During 1952 two shallow well supplies were discontinued, and there are now remaining in use the following four such sources:

Parishes	Wells and Springs
Bradwell.	Two wells at Council Houses and opposite Bridge Hall.
Finchingfield.	Two wells at Hawkins Harvest and at Ost End.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Good progress was made generally on the Northern Area Sewerage scheme, and by the end of the year all sewers in Wethersfield, Finchingfield and Great Bardfield had been completed.

In addition, the Ejector Station at Great Bardfield was completed and work well under way with the main pumping station.

The flow of sewage from the Wethersfield Airfield which re-opened in April had, by May, reached 48,000 gallons per day, which taking into account the fact that work was also in progress in modifying the works, brought about its own problems.

With regard to the works themselves, the modernization of the filters, the new humus tanks and the sludge drying beds were completed and the new sludge pump in operation.

In view of the quantity and nature of the effluent from the airfield, it is more than likely that further additions and extensions to the works may be necessary in the not too distant future.

It is regretted that there are no further developments to report regarding the provision of main drainage facilities at Rayne, Terling, Stisted and Bradwell. These are undoubtedly black spots and it is hoped that something can be done without undue delay.

The London Road area of Black Notley also calls for urgent consideration since the existing systems are totally inadequate, particularly since main water became available, and give rise to innumerable complaints and difficulties.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied information for the following notes relating to the functioning of the existing Sewage Disposal works and their respective sewerage systems.

### Coggeshall Sewage Disposal Works

A considerable amount of work was carried out to these works during the year, mainly to the filter beds. These were rebuilt and enlarged to 60 feet diameter. In addition, certain experimental work was carried out in relation to the flow of sewage through the works as a result of which a much better effluent was obtained.

The one formal sample taken was reported upon as satisfactory.

### Kelvedon Sewage Disposal Works

Part of the pumping machinery ordered during the previous year was delivered and three of the four pumps were renewed. The fourth will be completed early in 1953.

Of the two samples taken, one was reported upon as satisfactory and the other failed to reach the required standard.

### **Hatfield Peverel Sewage Works**

The three samples taken from the effluent at these works were all reported upon as unsatisfactory. It is, of course, known that the works are completely out of date and inadequate to deal with the flow, and nothing short of an entirely new plant will produce the desired results.

There were no further developments regarding the taking of the effluent from the Station Dairy into the sewer.

### **White Notley Sewage Works**

The two samples of effluent were reported upon as satisfactory, once more showing that these works are functioning well within their capacity in spite of the additional number of houses now connected to the system.

## **RIVERS AND STREAMS**

Following the progress of the work with the Northern Area Sewerage Scheme, the day is rapidly approaching when it will be possible to remove the pollution of the streams flowing into, and of the River Pant itself.

It is not possible to anticipate the time when the same can be said about the pollution of the River Ter, since no progress was made with regard to a new and comprehensive scheme for the area through which that river flows.

Further improvements to the drainage from the Pea Vining Plant at Hatfield Peverel reduced the danger of gross pollution to the River Ter from that source.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

### **Collection of Domestic Refuse**

It was only with increasing difficulty that this service was maintained on a satisfactory basis, particularly during the holiday periods, due mainly, of course to the increase in the number of new dwellings from which collections were necessary.

Apart from certain minor reorganizations which were possible within the service itself following the delivery of the second new vehicle of larger carrying capacity, no changes took place during the year.

It is interesting to record that since the acquisition of the two new vehicles, both powered by Diesel engines, the time lost through their being off the road for maintenance and repair has been considerably reduced.

Whilst no problems presented themselves with regard to the disposal of domestic refuse, it must be recorded that the tip at Coggeshall is fast approaching the time when it will have to be abandoned and an alternative site to serve that area found.

It is regretted that once more it is necessary to draw attention to the fact that the general public do not co-operate as much as they might in this important and essential service. Far too much material, which could in many cases be disposed of in other ways, finds its way into the dustbin, thus increasing not only the quantity to be collected, but aggravating the problem of disposal.



## Salvage

In spite of the temporary restriction on the amount of wastepaper which could be despatched to the Mills during part of the year, a sum of just over £1,000 was received from the sale of salvaged materials, mainly paper.

This is particularly gratifying since there was a considerable reduction in the price paid for this material.

## Night Soil Collection

No changes took place in this service and no serious complaint was received during the year. Although the Northern Area Sewerage Scheme is progressing it will inevitably be some time before the pail closets in this area can be entirely abolished, and in the meantime the collections must be maintained.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Details of the nature and number of inspections and visits made during the year by the Department are set out below. Once more it will be appreciated that the majority of visits are inevitably a result of housing and allied complaints brought to the notice of the Department, often through applications for housing accommodation, which continue to be dealt with by the Department.

### Nature and Number of Visits, Inspections, Etc.:

Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	46
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	79
Visits to investigate complaints	...	...	...	...	143
Re-visits and Inspections of work in progress	...	...	...	...	332
Interviews with owners, builders and architects	...	...	...	...	162
Infectious disease enquiries	...	...	...	...	14
Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	...	6
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection of Dairies	...	...	...	...	9
Visits to Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	102
Inspections of Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	28
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	49
Inspections of Fish Fryer's Premises	...	...	...	...	23
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	111
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	64
Water Samples taken	...	...	...	...	18
Ice Cream Samples taken	...	...	...	...	36
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	100
Visits to Premises Regarding Re-drainage	...	...	...	...	159
Visits to Requisitioned Premises	...	...	...	...	78
Visits to Temporary Dwellings	...	...	...	...	93
Visits to Camping and Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	69
Visits in connection with refuse collection and collection of Salvage	...	...	...	...	91
Visits to Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	72
Visits to premises prior to removal to Council Houses	...	...	...	...	366
Visits to premises following applications for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	488
Visits to ascertain Permitted Numbers	...	...	...	...	22
Visits in connection with H.C.N. Fumigation	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous Visits and Inspections	...	...	...	...	255

## CONTROLLED PREMISES: DETAILS OF INSPECTION, ETC.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. Registered	No. Inspected	Total No. of Inspections	Informal Notices Served	Notices Complied With	Legal Proceedings
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	16	16	49	3	3	Nil
Dairies and Milkshops	7	7	9	2	1	Nil
Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	16	16	102	Nil	Nil	Nil
Knacker's Yards	1	1	28	5	5	Nil
Offensive Trades	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
Fish Fryers	5	5	23	2	2	Nil
Ice Cream Premises	47	47	111	15	15	Nil
Factories and Workshops	89	41	64	3	3	Nil

Notices and Letters sent out:—

Informal Notices, Letters, Formal Notices ... .. 482

### Shops Acts, 1934 and 1950

Routine inspections of shops, particularly where this can be combined with inspections of premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of foods was maintained so far as practicable.

Such premises do not present much of a problem since in many instances the shops are attached to, or adjoining, living accommodation where some of the facilities required by the Act are readily available.

Again, no Statutory Action was necessary during the year.

### Moveable Dwellings

Eight new applications for licences to station individual caravans on sites and two applications for site licences were received during the year and all were approved; making a total of twenty-four in use at the end of the year.

In only 2 cases was it necessary to draw the attention of occupiers to non-compliance with conditions laid down in their licences.

### Smoke Abatement

Although only one complaint was received of smoke or grit from a factory chimney, routine observations were made on the chimneys in the District. In only one instance was anything abnormal noticed and the

matter was taken up with the person concerned. Up to the end of the year no positive steps had been taken to overcome the trouble.

At one further factory where trouble had been experienced in the past, a new mechanical stoker has been fitted, since when, a distinct improvement has been evident.

### **Vermin Infestation**

Whilst the practice of carrying out inspections of bedding and household effects before tenants move to Council Houses was continued, only four cases of vermin infestation were found and dealt with, three by the Department and one by specialist gassing.

### **Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951**

Only one premise is registered under the Act and no cause for complaint was found during the year.

### **Rodent Control**

As a result of complaints received or infestations found during normal inspections, 30 major infestations (20-100 rats), 24 minor infestations (1-20 rats) and 5 cases of infestation by mice were satisfactorily dealt with. In addition, periodical treatments were made to the Council's refuse tips and sewage disposal works.

Infestations were once again found in the sewerage systems at Coggeshall and Hatfield Peverel and were given the necessary treatments. A new poison—Warfarin—was brought into use during the year and it is anticipated that this will prove more effective and lasting than those previously in use.

### **Factories**

Particulars of premises in the Rural District coming within the scope of the Factories Act, 1937, and of inspections made, will be found on page 17.

Notification of the employment of 34 outworkers employed in the District was received during the year. These were engaged in the lamp-shade industry.

## **SCHOOLS**

All schools in the Rural District have piped main water supplies available, and the sanitary conveniences continued to be maintained in a reasonably satisfactory state, although not always sufficient for the use of the children.



# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937**

## **I. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	17	13	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	72	51	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	89	64	—	—

## **II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary convenience (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	3	—	3	—

## HOUSING

The number of additional units of accommodation provided in the District during 1952 was 184, an increase of seventy-five over the previous year. This number was made up as follows:

New Council Houses	...	...	...	160
Private Enterprise Houses	...	...	...	29
Plus: Additional units provided by conversion of other buildings to new dwellings	...	...	...	5
			Total	194
Less: Seven cases of re-conditioning where units of accommodation were reduced from three to one or two to one	...	...	...	7
Nine properties occupied in 1951 but now demolished	...	...	...	3
			Net total	184

The revision of the register of applications for housing accommodation which was carried out at the beginning of the year, had the effect of eliminating a number of applications, and at the end of the year those remaining on the register totalled 658, a reduction of 88 over the previous year.

Once more, every effort was made to secure the maximum use of all accommodation available by removing smaller families occupying larger houses to dwellings more suitable to their needs. This policy works reasonably well, but short of compulsion, it is evident that further inducements will have to be given if it is to succeed one hundred per cent. It will readily be seen that to move a couple who have reached retiring age from a pre-war three bedroomed house at approximately 13/9 per week to a post-war bungalow at 15/9 per week can in itself be a problem.

Representations in respect of 31 properties were made under sections 11 or 12 mainly where it was known or anticipated that the occupants would be moving to Council Houses.

Normal routine work under the 1936 Act proceeded steadily but in view of the present difficult conditions arising from the fact that cost of repairs is still very high, and that no amendment to the Rent and Mortgage (Restriction) Acts had been found possible, most of this, apart from the representations under sections 11 and 12, was carried out informally.

Five properties were completely re-built or extensively reconditioned during the year, and 12 properties demolished.

Occupants of temporary hutments and requisitioned properties, particularly where the latter were also condemned, were given all possible priority in rehousing, and at the end of the year the total number of such properties was down to a very low figure. Unfortunately, some of the families remaining are "problem families" and it may be a little while before their permanent rehousing can be achieved.

The one outstanding application for a grant under the 1949 Act was approved by the Ministry, but no further applications were received during the year.

It is still felt that a much greater use could, and should be made of this Act, but the delays which have occurred in the past in getting schemes approved have not encouraged owners to take full advantage of it.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk Supply.

The majority of retailers registered with the Council continue to distribute milk as received by them in sealed bottles, and largely as a result, no trouble was experienced with regard to complaints of unsatisfactory supplies.

### Dairies.

Nineteen distributors and seven dairies were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949:

Dealers' Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	9
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	9
Dealers' Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	...	8
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	...	6

### Ice Cream Premises.

There were forty-seven premises registered for the storage, manufacture and sale of ice cream in the District, an increase of seven over the previous year. Thirty-three samples were taken, mainly during the height of the season, with the following results in terms of the Provisional Grading of the Ministry of Health applicable to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test:

Manufactured in the District	Manufactured outside the District
1 in Provisional Grade 1	16 in Provisional Grade 1
2 in Provisional Grade 2	5 in Provisional Grade 2
— in Provisional Grade 3	6 in Provisional Grade 3
1 in Provisional Grade 4	2 in Provisional Grade 4

In addition 3 samples of Iced Lollies were taken during the year. These were found to be of satisfactory quality.

### Meat Inspection.

There was no change in the arrangement for supplying meat to the butchers shops in the District during the year, such supplies continue to be drawn from slaughterhouses in the adjoining Urban Districts of Braintree and Witham where it is inspected at the time of or shortly after slaughter.

Whilst the standard of meat supplied continued to be satisfactory so far as disease etc. was concerned, there were several instances where it was obvious that the present system of distribution falls short of the ideal. There can be little doubt that the pre-war position when all animals were killed in the slaughterhouse adjoining the butchers' shop, led to the meat reaching the shop in as perfect a condition as possible. Against this of course, one must offset the advantages of more efficient inspection under the present arrangement of centralised slaughtering.

The standard of cleanliness in the premises concerned continued to give general satisfaction and no formal or statutory action was necessary during the year.

## Other Foods.

The standard of cleanliness of premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of food, together with that of the personnel engaged therein, was given considerable attention during the year, as will be seen from the tables of visits and inspections as set out elsewhere in this report.

Dealing with the premises themselves is a comparatively straightforward task since certain basic standards can be applied, but dealing with personnel is an entirely different matter. This can only be done by a process of gradual education, but generally speaking the results have been fairly satisfactory.

It was not necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food, nor was it necessary to take any formal action under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, or the Bye-laws relating to the handling of foods.

Set out below are the quantities of various foodstuffs it was necessary to certify as unfit for human consumption during the year. All this food was voluntarily surrendered and on no occasion was it necessary to resort to seizure.

The comparatively large quantities of cheese, butter, margarine and cooking fats arose from a fire at the premises of the Witham Co-operative Society at Silver End and which were removed to one of the Ministry of Food Buffer Depots in this District for further classification.

103½ lbs. Cooked Tinned Ham.	342 lbs. Butter.
418 Tins of Food of Various Types	37½ lbs. Margarine.
288 lbs. Beef.	247 lbs. Cooking Fat.
492¾ lbs. Pork.	91½ lbs. Harricot Beans.
148 lbs. Mutton.	17 lbs. Butter Beans.
8 lbs. Bacon.	40 Coconuts.
656 lbs. Cheese.	